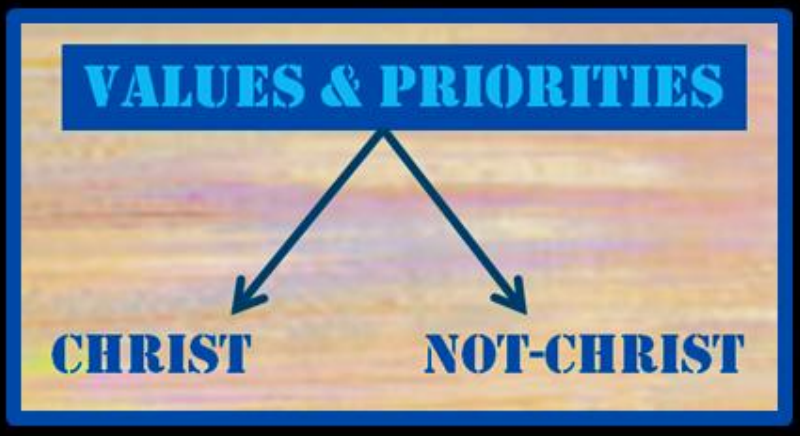
January 4

Matthew 19:16-24

"Values & Priorities"

16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.



[20] The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? [21] Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. [22] But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. [23] Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. [24] And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Think About It

☐ Jesus responded to a question. He said: Why are you calling me good. There's only one who is good and that's God. Some have interpreted this to mean Jesus was making an emphatic statement that no human was good. However, Job,

for example, was said to have been "perfect and upright…" and Psalms 37:23 says the steps of a "good man" are ordered by the Lord. See Psalms 112 and Proverbs 12. Also, it is said that Enoch was so good that God removed him from earth. (Genesis 5:24). So, that could not be the correct interpretation. The passage could not mean that no human has ever been "good".

Perhaps Jesus said that to mean, "either you're just trying to flatter me or since you're calling me 'good', you must be acknowledging me as one in authority. If so, you'll hear and do what I say". It may have been said sarcastically as Jesus detected the man's actual level of commitment.

☐ Why didn't Jesus list all of the ten commandments? Why were only five of the ten and one of the "two

great commandments" mentioned? Was this an error in translation? Were there only six commandments originally? (Exodus 20).

Did Jesus simply do an overview of the commandments to save time? Was Jesus saying only what the man needed to hear? Does it just depend on where this story is read? (Mark 10:17-22 and Luke 18:18-23).

☐ Was Jesus demonstrating that some people won't let go of earthly possessions in exchange for heavenly treasure?

☐ Was Jesus a social radical who was against wealth and the wealthy? Was he, instead, showing that while some may know the protocol of saying the right things to the right people, they, in fact, have completely opposing motivations for a supposed pursuit of paradise?

Is it that the very values and priorities of some were, and are, antithetical to Christ's teachings?

These are just a few questions to consider, but, what does the Holy Ghost speak to YOU regarding values and priorities?